

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office action dated April 20, 2006.

Claims 1-13, 15 and 16 have been amended. Claim 17 is canceled.

The examiner objected to claim 7, and the appropriate correction has been made.

The examiner rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claim 16 has been amended as recommended by the examiner to comply with 35 U.S.C. §101, and claim 17 has been canceled.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-10 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yacoub (U.S. Patent No. 6,452,692) (hereinafter Yacoub) in view of Luman (U.S. Patent No. 6,700,678) (hereinafter Luman).

Luman teaches a method for increasing the likelihood of print job completion. In the method disclosed by Luman, a print job is monitored at the printing device by the printing device itself for successful completion (column 4, lines 17-18). If the printing device detects a condition that would prevent the print job from being completed on the printing device (column 4, lines 28-33), then the printing device attempts to reroute the print job to alternate printing devices on the network (column 4, lines 33-56, column 5, lines 44-59, column 6, lines 27-29). The suitable alternate printing devices are obtained through query by the unsuccessful printer of other printers on the network or by query of the unsuccessful printer of database listings maintained on other network printers.

Claimed embodiments of the applicant's invention comprise methods and systems for increasing the likelihood of print job completion through the use of print system

components residing, not on the printing device, but on the computing device. These print system components monitor a print task and, upon failure of the print task, reroute a failed print task to an appropriate printer. In the claimed embodiments of the applicant's invention, an appropriate alternative printer is identified by a print system component that resides on the computing device from which the print job was initiated. The alternative printer is identified by monitoring the network for a successful print job. The combination of Yacoub and Luman teach inter-printer communication to find an alternative printer. This method requires specialized printer components to perform this monitoring and communication. Claimed embodiments of the present invention do not require specialized printer components to achieve this function.

Independent claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 16 have been amended to more particularly point out the differences between embodiments of the present invention and the prior art.

Independent claim 1, as amended, comprises the elements of:

“initiating a first print task on a computing device, wherein said computing device comprises a plurality of print system components;

...

monitoring with at least one component of said plurality of print system components said first print task for a print task failure;

...

monitoring with at least one component of said plurality of print system components said network for a successful print task, wherein said successful print task is subsequent to said first print task failure;

identifying an alternate printer to which said successful print task was sent; and

sending said saved, first print task to said alternate printer.”

Neither Yacoub, Luman, nor the combination of Yacoub and Luman teaches the elements of monitoring using print system components residing on the computing device. Nor do they disclose monitoring of the network for a successful print task to identify a printing device to which the print task should be rerouted.

Regarding claims 2-6, each of these claims is dependent on claim 1, and comprises all the limitations thereof and are, therefore, patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 1.

Independent claim 7, as amended, comprises the elements of:

“initiating a first print task on a computing device, wherein said computing device comprises a plurality of print system components;

...

monitoring with at least one component of said plurality of print system components said first print task for a print task failure;

...

monitoring with at least one component of said plurality of print system components said network for a successful print task that originates subsequently to said first print task failure from a different computing device than the computing device from which said first print task originated;

identifying an alternate printer to which said successful print task was sent;

analyzing a characteristic of said successful print task to determine the compatibility of said alternate printer; and

sending said saved, first print task to said alternate printer when said alternate printer is compatible with said saved, first print task.”

Neither Yacoub, Luman, nor the combination of Yacoub and Luman teaches the elements of monitoring using print system components residing on the computing device. Nor do they disclose monitoring for a successful print task to determine a printing device to which the print task should be rerouted.

Regarding claims 8-10, each of these claims is dependent on claim 7, and comprise all the limitations thereof and are, therefore, patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 7.

Independent claim 12, as amended, comprises the elements of:

“initiating a first print task on a computing device, wherein said computing device comprises a plurality of print system components;

...

monitoring with at least one of said plurality of print system components said first print task for a print task failure;

...

monitoring with at least one of said plurality of print system components said network for a successful print task, wherein said successful print task is subsequent to said first print task failure;

...

sending said modified, first print task to said printer.”

Neither Yacoub, Luman, nor the combination of Yacoub and Luman teaches the elements of monitoring using print system components residing on the computing device. Nor do they disclose monitoring for a successful print task to determine a printing device to which the print task should be rerouted.

Regarding claims 13 and 14, each of these claims is dependent on claim 12, and comprise all the limitations thereof and are, therefore, patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 12.

Independent claim 15, as amended, comprises the elements of:

“an initiator for initiating a first print task on a computing device, wherein said computing device comprises a plurality of print system components;

...

a first monitor, wherein said first monitor comprises at least one of said plurality of print system components, for monitoring said first print task for a print task failure;

...

a second monitor, wherein said second monitor comprises at least one of said plurality of print system components, for monitoring said network for a successful print task, wherein said successful print task is subsequent to said first print task failure;

an analyzer for analyzing said successful print task characteristics to determine the capability of the printer to which said successful print task was sent;

an evaluator for evaluating said printer’s capability to determine whether said printer can print said first print task; and

a sender for sending said saved, first print task to said printer if said printer is capable of printing said first print task.”

Neither Yacoub, Luman, nor the combination of Yacoub and Luman teaches the elements of monitoring using print system components residing on the computing device. Nor do they disclose monitoring for a successful print task to determine a printing device to which the print task should be rerouted.

Independent claim 16, as amended, comprises the elements of:

“initiating a first print task on a computing device, wherein said computing device comprises a plurality of print system components;

...

monitoring with at least one of said plurality of print system components said first print task for a print task failure;

...

monitoring with at least one of said plurality of print system components said network for a successful print task, wherein said successful print task is subsequent to said first print task failure;

analyzing said successful print task characteristics to determine the capability of a printer to which said successful print task was sent;

evaluating said printer’s capability to determine whether said printer can print said first print task; and

sending said saved, first print task to said printer if said printer is capable of printing said first print task.”

Neither Yacoub, Luman, nor the combination of Yacoub and Luman teaches the elements of monitoring using print system components residing on the computing device. Nor do they disclose monitoring for a successful print task to determine a printing device to which the print task should be rerouted.

The examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yacoub (U.S. Patent No. 6,452,692) (hereinafter Yacoub) in view of Luman (U.S. Patent No. 6,700,678) (hereinafter Luman) in further view of Shah (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,167) (hereinafter Shah).

Independent claim 11 has been amended and comprises the elements of:

“initiating a first print task on a computing device, wherein said computing device comprises a plurality of print system components;

...

monitoring with at least one of said plurality of print system components said first print task for a print task failure;

...

monitoring with at least one of said plurality of print system components said network for a successful print task, wherein said successful print task is subsequent to said first print task failure;

analyzing said successful print task characteristics to determine the capability of a printer to which said successful print task was sent;

...

sending said saved, first print task to said printer if said user has chosen to reprint said print task.”

The combination of Yacoub, Luman and Shah does not teach the elements of monitoring using print system components residing on the computing device. Nor do they disclose monitoring for a successful print task to determine a printing device to which the print task should be rerouted.

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

/Scott C. Krieger/
Scott C. Krieger
Reg. No. 42,768
Tel. No.: (360) 828-0589